of the Chair is while giving protection to one Member for raising an issue, the Chair has to keep in mind that there are other names also. I cannot allow you to monopolise, however important it is. I will not allow even the Minister to monopolise at the expense of other Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are again monopolists.

RE : LEAKAGE OF QUESTION PAPERS FOR I.I.T. ENTRANCE TEST

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, it has already been discussed in this House that an astronomical amount of national investment is made for the IITs of our country in order to build a modern and ancient advanced India. But this year the academic session of all six IITs has been dislocated and significantly delayed. The reason for this is known to all of us. In Lucknow primarily and then in Patna as well, through the private coaching centres, the mathematics question paper was leaked one day in advance. Physics and chemistry question papers were leaked on the days of the examination. For the first time in the history of IIT under-graduate entrance tests this has taken place. The exams have been postponed and, therefore, the session is going to be disclocated. I can't say whether with two sets of question papers the same thing could not have repeated but there has been an unprecedented phenomenon in the history of IIT this time also as far as paper-setting is concerned. Only one set of question papers was set this time, if the news reported in the newspapers is correct. In the last three years, since the UPSC civil services question paper leakage to the CBSC question paper leakage this year, this has become almost a national epidemic. I am constrained to say so. I hope, it would be national concern for all guardians, students and anybody who is concerned with the human capital development of our country. My only intention in raising this matter is to try to explore the possibility of the Government's reaction to it. Thank you.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I just want to add something to what has been said by my young colleague and this is about IITs and other institutions. In the recent past the question papers have been leaked out causing havoc to the academic standards and to education in the country. All the newspapers have recently reported about the IIT leakage and joint entrance examination. This morning there was a news item about Roorkee Engineering College, also recognised as an institution equivalent to IIT. Only some time back there was a discussion in which my friend Shri Sengupta had participated. It was raised by my colleague Satish Agarwal. It was about CBSE examinations. Earlier also UPSC question papers had been leaked out. It is an unfortunate thing. I do not treat them as stray incidents or isolated incidents. This indicates the kind of deterioration that has been creeping in in the academic world and in the monitoring that is so necessary. That is why the matter needs much more serious attention of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Madam Deputy Chairman, there are long-term implications to what has been happening.

Now it has come out that it is the coaching institutions which are spreading a network thoughout the country. I know something about it in the northern India. I was told about all these things by many people in Allahabad, Lucknow, Delhi, etc. But, I did not believe them till I found these reports in the Press and after having verified some of these further facts. There is a mafia growing. In these coaching institutions huge sums, astronomical sums of money are just being extracted. The unfortunate thing is that many teachers of colleges and universities are taking classes in these coaching institutions. They are not attending their

classes in colleges and universities. Madam, another thing, also I want to mention, we have been talking about scams, hawala, this and that from time to time. The money is being paid by coaching institutions in the names of their wives, Mrs. so-and-so and Mr. so-and-so. If you ask any these institutions whether they would give a list of people with Particulars who give the lectures, they would just refuse it. This is a mafia which is growing, this nexus. The colleges and the unverisities are suffering while the HRD Ministry is spending so much. The Government and the public natrually expect that the standard of education is raised. But, what is the result? The entire State machinery is being involved in this; the police, the lower level functionaries, from Registrars downwards. Everybody is getting a part of this. It is not only that the administrative machinery but the entire State machinery is being corrupted. Madam, you are an academician and you are well aware of what effect it has on the coming generations. It is not only the boys who are appearing for examination this year, but the coming generation is developing a cynicism that the scams which we have in politics have also started infiltrating or percolating or going into the academic world also and that some kind of a mafia is working there. This is the cynicism which is being generated in the younger generation. They say that this is happening in the UPSC, it is happening in the State Public Service Commissions, it is happening in the IITs and the engineering colleges. Madam, we have to realise that so much of money is being paid to these institutions. The public is spending money, public funds are being spent. These institutions are supposed to turn out good st idents so that in the globalised competitve world our students are able to stand up with courage, fortitude and on an equal footing with others. But, what are we doing? It has got wider implications. Therefore, Madam, through you, I would request the HRD Ministry that this matter should not only be looked into or inquired into, but expenditious action should also be taken. Secondly, my request is, what has happened that should not be treated as an aberration or an accident, etc. The Government should find out as to why it has repeatedly happened. It has got larger implications. I would like to know what the Government of India is going to do particularly when higher education is the responsibility of the Central Government Madam, the Government of India says that it opposes commercialisation of education. But, this is not only commercialisation of education, but this is also currupting education. In a way it is just destroying the future of the students and the credibility of entire educational system in this country. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Renuka Chowdhury, you just add one sentence. I have so many names in support of this and the large interest is being taken into consideration.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I had raised this question during the last session when the XII class exmination paper had leaked. Now, the IIT question paper has been leaked. Our hon. colleague has very eloquently and lucidly told us the various factors and remifications of what is going to happen. I am speaking as a mother. I bring up my children to be honest and to study conscientiously. But, if there is going to be no level-playing field, where my child is denied an opportunity to access another entrance, is denied an equal opportunity of going into another institutions because of a blunder committed by the Government, I stand to lose as a mother, if my child is afraid to face the consequences and then kills itself. There is a growing incidence of children committing suicide and I cannot imagine a more ugly manifestation of these kinds of slip-ups that we constantly seem to land ourselves in. Nothing came about after the last session when the

entire Parliament in its collective wisdom protested about the XII class exmination. The hon. Minister then gave us an assurance. And, that is all that happened. We got lipservice on the floor of the House while the destiny or fate of all these children still hangs in balance and now, we do this at the IIT level! Where is it going to end? Madam, I urge you: you have to take a firm stand and demand of the Government that we want action. I do not want repetition of such incidents. And I never want to come back to this House and raise an issue like this again. I want action. What has happened to the XII class examination? What decision has the Government taken? And what decision are they going to give to these children who for no fault of theirs have finished with their summer holidays; they cannot even plant to go anywhere; they have no family life left now, because their parents and other cannot take them and go anywhere. We are living such a stressful life and we contribute to this! Why should the children be made to pay for our slip-up? Madam, I think, you have to direct them to come back with an action plan. I do not want any condolence meetings here in this House after this. Thank You very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Madam, the hon. Minister for H.R.D. is present here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Madam, give me half-a-minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Madam, the Minister who has given an assurance ...*(Interruptions)*... though there is a change of Government in the intervening period ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: It is only a revised edition ...*(Interruptions)*... The same persons are there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam, the Minister who has given an assurance is present here. I remember, vividly, the hon. Minister gave an assurance, personally, that he would take action on the tough questions for the XII class students. The hon. Minister is present here. If he reiterates his assurance with follow-up action, we would be most happy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Otherwise, I will have to gherao the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would like to add one word in strong endorsement of what all my hon. colleagues have said before. As Renukaji said, as a mother, I am poignantly aware of the difficulties. Our children who are going into colleges this year and many of our chidren's classmates who are taking this IIT or pre-medical entrance examination, have had no play-time for six years from VII standard. They spent all their play-time in going to coaching classes for this IIT examination, for this single day. So, they spent six years—VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, and XII. They spent, to prepare themselves, four hours a day after school and in addition to their preparation for X and XII standard exminations. These children go to coaching classes like the students in universities. They are like slaves for this one day. Madam, you can imagine the kind of pressure these children are going through. We take it lightly. If there is corruption for this and if the papers are released for this, then nothing could be more cruel or uncivilized in a society like ours where our children's entire mental, psychological frame of mind and future are mortgaged for some narrow personal gains. This is an aspect which I wanted to bring to the notice of the House because this is not a one-day exam, this is not some one small thing which has been happened over the last ten days. This is the fruit of these children's five years, tremendous hard work giving up all man-

ner of pleasure because this is such a competitive exam and is supposed to be a test of merit. Therefore, I demand, that strong action should be taken against those people who are responsible for the leak of this and it should be deterrent action so that it is never repeated again and these children's life, five years of their life, is not taken lightly. Therefore, follow up action, strong and deterrent action should be taken and people should be punished. The action taken should be brought before the House so that we are aware of what is done. Thank you.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The action should be time-bound.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, when we raised this issue in this House, I was in the Chair and I had also made comments about leakage of the question papers of XII standard. When this issue was raised to hon. Minister had given some assurance unfortunately, I do not know what our Assurances Committee does. It is the duty of the Assurances Committee also that they should find out what assurances were given by the Government should go into them and bring them before the House. It is also the personal commitment of anybody who makes an assurance on the floor of the House, to keep it in the true spirit. Mr. Minister, if you remember, we took up this serious matter. It is a question of the whole nation. It is not one stray incident. The future of this country depends on them. If we are going to the 21st century in this way, limping and crawling, I do not know what will happen.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): Madam, regarding the CBSE examination I gave an assurance to the House to look into the matter and as a result of this the CBSE constituted an Expert Committee. According to the findings of the Committee the questions were not out of syllabus.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, it was not that. It was the question of leakage of question papers.

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA: For the leakage? Madam ...*(Interruptions)*... Madam, regarding the leakage. ...*(Interruptions)*... let me speak.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer.

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA: Madam, regarding leakage of examination papers of IIT, Government is seized of the matter and has decided to refer the matter to CBI or IB. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish.

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA: To take action against the guilty persons. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, the position is like this: if the question papers have been leaked, the persons or the students who have been able to purchase the questions in exchange of money, have got an advantage over many. It is a competitive examination. Therefore, you must cancel this examination and hold a new examination.

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA: Let me come to the second point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish.

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA: Number one, the Government has decided to conduct again the examination in the entire country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, I am happy that you made this commitment that you are going to cancel the examination and re-examination will be ordered. But the question that the hon. Members are raising seriously over

here is that the problem should be tackled from the root itself-how it has happened, why it is happening—so that we can have a redressal from the beginning, not acting just on what has happened now.

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA: Madam. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me speak. Madam, I have been personally acquainted with the examination systems and its loopholes. As far as the issue raised by the hon. Members in this House regarding the leakage of question papers and the nature of examination, etc. is concerned, I have got the explanations. Therefore, the Government proposes to go into the entire system of examination in the country and how to improve it. Government would take steps in this regard and would invite suggestions from hon. Members of the House from all sides so that the system may be strengthened, so that the future generation will not suffer because of our fault.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Who would give compensation to these students for having been made to sit out on this? There is also the fact that they cannot go for the other examinations. They do not know whether they would get into the IIT or not.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Chowdhury, there are other questions also. There are other matters which have been raised. This may be a very, very serious issue, but there are other issues also. Shri John Fernandes, please.

RE. PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF LAND BY KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam Deputy Chairman, we have again a controversy in Goa, created by the Konkan Railway Corporation. The Konkan Railway Corporation has been synonymous with controversies and resentment in Goa. Madam, the people of Goa welcomed this project because they would be getting a train connecting the north with the south.

The present controversy created by the Konkan Railway Corporation is that they have sought to acquire 40 lakh sq. km. of land in Margoan city, in a commercial area. The last controversy created by the Konkan Railway Corporation was diverting the route from the hinterland to the settlement area where the land is very expensive. It is a prime land. The Corporation had it for a song about Rs. 100/- or Rs. 200/- per Sq. metre—when the market value was Rs. 2,000/-per sq. metre.

I have been raising this issue off and on in this House. I had said that since the diversion was wrong, and the terrain was bad, they would not be able to complete the project in time. Now, the fact is that the Corporation is still to complete the project in the Goa sector.

Of late, the Corporation has ventured to acquire 40 lakh sq. kms. *(Interruptions)* This land is sought to be acquired at the rate of Rs. 100/- or Rs. 200/- per sq. metre. I think this is being done because the Konkan Railway Corporation is in the red. They have no funds. They are doing this with the sole intention of selling this land in future because the market price of this land now is between Rs. 2,000/- and Rs. 5,000/- per sq. metre. This is a settlement area. It is a green land. It is an agricultural land I am told, some intelligent architect has come up with a proposal to have a training school and a trade centre in Margoan.

Madam, if you see Goa on the map of India, you would find that it occupies a small area. Therefore, the Corporation should go to the rural areas. This is an urban land. Or, in the alternative, they can go to the neighbouring States like Karnataka or Maharashtra. We have no objection. But I do not think the Konkan